

I urge the FCC to refrain from undermining or rolling back in any way the Title II net neutrality rules. There are no other existing ways to ensure the internet is free and fair to all those using it, not just the companies able to pay off ISPs.

If the only argument for rolling back Title II protections is the age of the supporting legislation, please wait for Congress to provide a new foundation for regulation before rolling back existing regulations. Regulating ISPs under Title II was the best solution that the FCC and the public came to over years of deliberation, and it has been crucial in supporting internet start ups, academic research tools, and competition in video streaming. Before Title II was enacted, Netflix and other non-ISP owned video streaming services would frequently be throttled down to lower bandwidths than the ISP had to offer. While ISPs claimed this was out of their control, in at least one case Comcast was found to have maintained a much higher proportion of their available bandwidth for their own streaming service relative to Netflix, even as consumers had chosen Netflix in far greater numbers.

In short, to call this attack on internet user protections “restoring internet freedom” is the most disgusting form of irony. The Title II protections that the public and major internet companies such as Google have fought years to establish are all that stand between the current internet we enjoy and a maze of restricted content, fast lanes, arbitrary slow downs, and strangled competition. ISPs already have huge market power due to the large capital costs of building internet infrastructure, AND their cozy relationships with regulators and lobbyists to defend large areas of monopoly and duopoly. Do not give them even more power over a service that is crucial for continued American innovation and growth.